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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Vocabulary Readers

Cynthia Rylant, Author

by Katherine James

illustrated by Bridget Starr Taylor



Number of Words: 137

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Cover, 3, 11 © Courtesy of Cynthia Rylant

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Strategy Focus

As you read, stop now and then to
summarize what you have learned
so far.



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

Key Vocabulary

chapter one part of a long book

character a person or animal in a story

problem a trouble, something to figure out or understand

solution an answer to a problem

Word Teaser

I am shorter than a whole book,
but I am longer than a page.
What am I?



How do authors get ideas for their stories? Let's find out how Cynthia Rylant gets ideas.



Cynthia Rylant got her ideas in a small town in West Virginia. That's where she grew up.



Cynthia got a job in a library when she was older. She loved reading the books there.



Cynthia decided she would write books for children. She would write about her life in the mountains.



Some **characters** in Cynthia Rylant's books are people. Some are animals.



Many of Cynthia's books are **chapter** books. They are long stories with different parts, or chapters.



Cynthia's characters face important troubles, or **problems**. Sometimes these problems are hard to solve. Sometimes the problems are very funny!



Cynthia's characters find **solutions**, or answers, to their problems.

A woman with long brown hair and bangs, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt under a blue and dark blue apron, is sitting at a table and painting. She is looking towards the camera with a smile. On the table in front of her is a large canvas with a colorful painting of a dog on a checkered floor. To her right, there are various art supplies, including a black jar filled with brushes and several small paint containers. A yellow dog is sitting on the table next to her, looking at the camera. In the background, a black and white dog is visible on a wooden deck. A potted plant with red flowers sits on a small table on the deck. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting it is daytime.

Cynthia has written more than sixty books! She is happy to be an author.

Responding

Putting Words to Work

1. Cynthia Rylant writes ____.
2. Think of a story you have read. Who are the **characters** in that story?
3. What are **chapters**?
4. Imagine that you want to play outside, but it starts to rain. What would be a **solution** to this **problem**?
5. **PARTNER ACTIVITY:** Choose a word you learned in the book. Explain its meaning to your partner and give an example.

Answer to Word Teaser

a chapter

Word Builder

The words **problem** and **solution** are opposites. Make a chart that lists the words below. Add words that have the opposite meanings.

Opposites	
problem	solution
little	
older	
hard	
better	

Write About It

If you wrote a book about your life, what would you write about? Use words from your chart.

Key Vocabulary

chapter
character
problem
solution

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